

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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O R 061036Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3009

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

S E C R E T BONN 08950

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, US, XF

SUBJECT: EC/ARAB DIALOGUE

REFS: (A) STATE 119120, (B) BONN 8767 AND 8828

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES TIMELY GUIDANCE, WHICH WE PASSED ON TO BOTH REDIES AND FONOFF EC POLITICAL INTEGRATION DEPT CHIEF GABLENTZ AT OPENING OF BUSINESS HERE JUNE 6. REDIES AND GABLENTZ THANKED US FOR U.S. COMMENTS, WHICH WILL BE REVIEWED AT TODAY'S EC-9 MIDEAST EXPERT GROUP MEETING IN BONN.

2. REDIES PROMISED TO BRIEF EMBOFF ON RESULTS OF
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EXPERT GROUP MEETING LATER TODAY OR ON THE MORNING OF

JUNE 7. AS HE INDICATED IN REF B, REDIES SAID MIDEAST EXPERTS WOULD BE ADDRESSING LARGELY PROCEDURAL ASPECTS OF EC/ARAB DIALOGUE AS WELL AS THE POLITICAL QUESTION OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ARAB OIL RESTRICTIONS AGAINST THE DANES AND THE DUTCH AND THE PACE OF EC/ARAB DISCUSSIONS. REDIES CONFIRMED THAT THE NINE WOULD NOT CONSIDER THE DELIVERY OF THE EC AIDE MEMOIRES OR THE INITIAL MEETING BETWEEN THE EC PRESIDENCY (I.E., SAUVAGNARGUES) AND ARAB REPS TO BE "CONCRETE DISCUSSIONS." IN CONTRAST, REDIES AND GABLENTZ SAID THE INITIAL MEETING OF A JOINT EC/ARAB STEERING COMMITTEE, MUCH LESS THE SUBSEQUENT ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT WORKING GROUPS, WOULD CONSTITUTE "CONCRETE DISCUSSIONS" AND WOULD THUS HAVE TO BE PRECEDED BY TERMINATION OF THE ARAB OIL EMBARGO AGAINST THE DANES AND DUTCH.

3. REDIES AND GABLENTZ SAID THAT TODAY'S MIDEAST EXPERTS WOULD NOT RPT NOT DISCUSS THE ECONOMIC ISSUES MENTIONED IN PARAS 4 AND 5 OF DEPT'S GUIDANCE; THESE PROBLEMS WOULD BE LEFT FOR THE EC COMMISSION IN BRUSSELS. HOWEVER, COMMENTING PERSONALLY, GABLENTZ SAID THAT ANY ARAB WISH FOR PREFERENTIAL TRADE TREATMENT CAN AT THIS TIME BE CONSIDERED TO REPRESENT ONLY THE UNILATERAL AND VERY TENTATIVE DESIRE OF ARAB LEAGUE REPS. A DECISION ON SUCH AN IMPORTANT ECONOMIC MATTER COULD ONLY BE TAKEN AFTER THE FRG AND ITS EC PARTNERS HAD ACCORDED CLOSE CONSIDERATION TO ALL IMPLICATIONS, AND HAD CONSULTED WITH MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES. GABLENTZ SAID THE FRG IS OBVIOUSLY VERY AWARE OF THE RAMIFICATIONS OF THE ISSUE OF GENERALIZED AS OPPOSED TO SPECIFIC TRADE PREFERENCES. HE SAID THE ISSUES RAISED BY THE U.S. IN REF A PARA 5 ALSO WOULD BE CLOSELY EXAMINED.

4. IT IS OUR IMPRESSION, BOTH FROM BRIEF EXCHANGES TODAY AND REDIES' COMMENTS REPORTED IN REF B (AND IN THE PAST) THAT THE NINE CONSIDER THAT THEY HAVE LITTLE IF ANYTHING POLITICAL TO TALK ABOUT WITH THE ISRAELIS. ONE GERMAN OFFICIAL COMMENTED THAT "PERHAPS WE CAN TALK WITH ALON ABOUT THE WEATHER." THE IDEA OF AN

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EC/ISRAELI DIALOGUE SEEMS, ASIDE FROM EEC TYPE ISSUES HANDLED IN BRUSSELS, TO BE NEARLY PURELY COSMETIC. HILLENBRAND

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